

## BOOK REVIEW

RON LANCE. 2004. **Woody plants of the Southeastern United States: A Winter Guide.** (ISBN 0-8203-2524-4, hbk.). University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA 30602, U.S.A. (**Orders:** 800-266-5842, books@ugapress.uga.edu, www.ugapress.org). \$54.95, 441 pp., 587 b/w line drawings, 6" × 9 1/4".

For anyone identifying woody plants from the southeastern U.S.A., this book ought to be at hand. There are so many 'tree books' but Lance's volume is extraordinary—so many taxa, excellent illustrations, good keys, and useful comments from someone obviously with deep first-hand experience. It's hard to imagine how it could be improved, much less approached by a competing facsimile. It's a classic and surely will be in use for a long time—perhaps to be used as companion to the Duncans' "Trees" and "Woody Vines" of the southeastern United States and Carl Hunter's "Trees, Shrubs, and Vines of Arkansas," personal favorites of mine.

The volume treats "native plants, as well as naturalized exotic species known to occur in at least two locations in the Southeast," from east Texas and northern Florida (excluding peninsular Florida) to southeastern Kansas and southern Delaware. "Some 900 species" are included; about 600 original illustrations by the author show distinguishing characteristics of twigs and buds. These are "all the trees, shrubs, and woody ground covers that grow without the aid of cultivation"—the last category is broad, including species of *Calamintha*, *Euonymus*, *Hypericum*, *Ilex*, *Iva*, *Parthenocissus*, *Rubus*, *Ribes*, *Vaccinium*, and *Vitis* (for a few examples among many). For species without reliable winter diagnostic features, spring and summer features are shown and described.

With that brief overview and unqualified recommendation, here are wonderful comments from the author's own preface. "For many years, botanical bait has lured me across the southeastern United States. This pull has been on many occasions a consuming quest to find and inspect, to collect and study, to photograph, illustrate, and record, as nearly as personally possible the totality of our native woody flora. Doing this amid and between jobs, during vacations, and at nearly every other available opportunity, I ultimately came to the realization that this assignment would have no end. Therefore, to see finally at least part of a lifelong interest rendered into this publication is a joy and a relief... For that minority of people that marvel and cheer internally each time they see a species in its place in the world for their very first time, this book is presented not only as a guide of what can be seen but also as an enticement to see differently... Bare twigs and dormant buds are merely another dimension in the appearance of our woody plants, a dimension often overlooked yet perfectly distinctive if viewed with an eye for detail."—Guy Nesom, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX, 76102-4060, U.S.A.

## BOOK NOTICE

SUSAN L. WOODWARD. 2003. **Biomes of Earth: Terrestrial, Aquatic, and Human-Dominated.** (ISBN 0-313-31977-4, hbk.). Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881, U.S.A. (**Orders:** 800-225-5800, fax 603-431-2214, www.greenwood.com). \$79.95, 435 pp., b/w figs, maps, 7" × 10".

In this *Biomes of the Earth* book, Woodward divides the world's biomes into four principal types: **Terrestrial, Freshwater, Marine, and Human-dominated.** "Comprehensive discussions enable readers to obtain a thorough understanding of each biome, and the convenient one-volume format allows easy comparison between aspects of each region."